

REMARKS

On June 16, 2008, the Office mailed a Notice of Allowance in the present application. Before the application issues, Applicants wish to confirm that all prior art cited in the Information Disclosure Statements had been considered and initialed by the Examiner and also cite additional art that has recently come to the attention of the Applicants. Further, Applicants wish to comment on the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance. Applicants discuss each of these items, in turn, below.

Information Disclosure Statement

On March 9, 2007, an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in the present application, citing a single reference, JP 07-267871 to Kawasumi Lab Inc. Applicants submitted an English language abstract of the '871 Japanese reference with the IDS and believe that the IDS was in compliance with 37 C.F.R §1.97 and §1.98.

According to the Image File Wrapper on PAIR, it appears that that the Examiner has not signed-off on this single reference or otherwise provided an initialed copy of the Information Disclosure Statement to Applicants indicating that this reference has been considered. To make the record clear, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner initial the JP 07-267871 cited on the Information Disclosure Statement to serve as an indication on the record that the reference has been considered.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants are also submitting herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement which includes additional references that have come to the attention of Applicants.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

In the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner indicated that certain prior art of record, including US 5,649,903 to Deniega, "teaches a blood processing system substantially as claimed by Applicant including a flexible leukofilter, but fails to disclose or suggest a separate restraining structure", along with other steps and limitations of the claims.

However, to make the record clear, Applicants respectfully submit that Deniega does not disclose a blood processing system including the recited in-line filter which includes first and second flexible housings, as the Examiner seems to suggest in the reasons for allowance. Specifically, Deniega discloses generally a rotating membrane filter apparatus comprising a rigid outer housing having a rotatable membrane filter element positioned therein.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for Allowance, and respectfully request that the single reference cited in the IDS filed March 9, 2007 and the references cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure statement accompanying this Request for Continued Examination be considered. The


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Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account 50-1039 for any additional fees which may be required or credit any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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